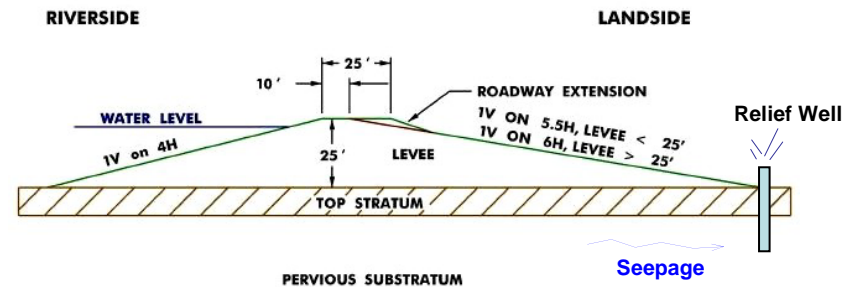
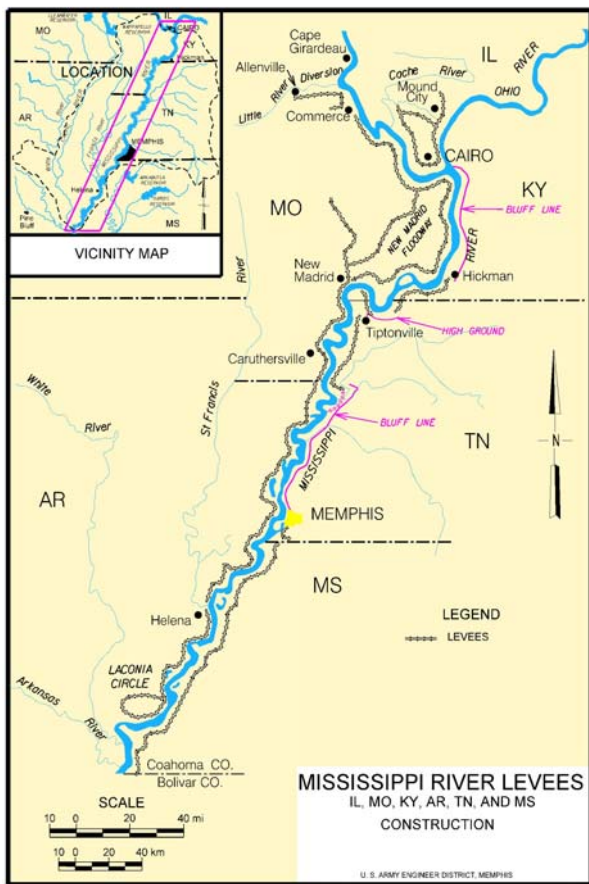


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LEVEE SECTION

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12 February 2006

**Project Name:** Mississippi River Levees, AR, IL, KY, MS, MO & TN, MR&T Construction

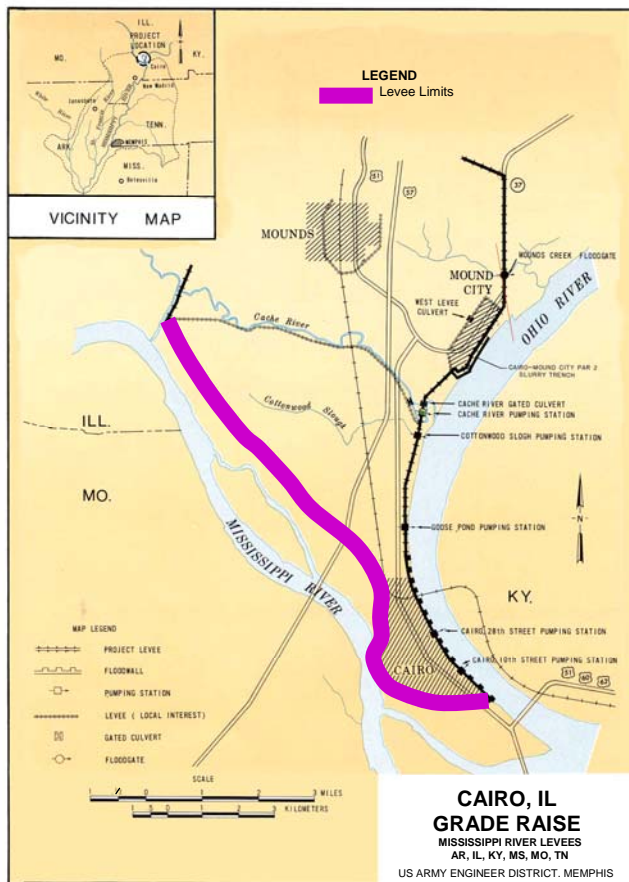
**Authority:** Flood Control Acts of 1928, 1936, 1938, 1941, 1946, 1950, 1954, 1962, 1965, and 1968 and PL 92-222.

**Location:** The Mississippi River levee system on the west bank extends from Allenville, Missouri, on the Little River Diversion Channel generally southward to the vicinity of Venice, Louisiana, and on the east bank from Hickman, Kentucky, to opposite Venice, Louisiana, except where interrupted by hills and tributary streams. Included in the system are the levees which protect Mounds, Mound City, and Cairo, Illinois, and the New Madrid Levee and Floodgate.

**Description:** The plan of improvement provides for raising, strengthening, and in some cases, extending existing levees to provide protection against the project flood. This feature includes 1,519.1 miles of levees and 14.8 miles of floodwall. The Mississippi River levee system provides complete protection to 23,600 square miles and partial protection to an additional 3,780 square miles in the alluvial valley subject to flooding by the project flood. The alluvial valley is over 650 miles long and varies in width from 20 to 90 miles. Numerous railroads, highways, and airfields connecting the major transportation centers of New Orleans, Memphis, Cairo, St. Louis, Chicago, and Louisville lie within the protected areas as do several major transcontinental communication routes. In addition to the vast highly developed and productive agricultural areas, the levees afford protection to urban areas and many large and varied industries whose products have a vital bearing on the welfare, economy, and defense capabilities of this country.

**Status Of Environmental Impact Statement:** The final EIS was filed with CEQ on 16 April 1976. A supplement to the 1976 EIS is being prepared and is scheduled to be completed in October 1998.

**Other Information:** Initial construction funds were appropriated in FY 1928. The scheduled completion date of June 2013 for programmed work is an acceleration from the latest completion date of January 2014 presented to Congress. This change is due to advancing the Mississippi River Levees portion of work necessary to support the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway, Missouri project.



Area aerial photo courtesy of ©2005 Google Earth

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As of 15 February 2006

## PROJECT: Cairo, IL Grade Raise

**CURRENT STATUS:** The Memphis District is working to identify alternative methods of restoring the levee crown to acceptable standards – to accommodate two-way traffic for maintenance and floodfight operations and, perhaps, to flatten the levee slopes. Depending upon the method used, the amount of needed borrow would vary between 100,000 and 750,000 cubic yards. A potential sponsor has been identified for the borrow material. The District is in communication with the potential sponsor to identify location, size of potential tract and suitability of the borrow material. Based on the outcome of the proposal, funds in the amount of \$2,380,000 could be used to fully fund this contract in FY 2007.

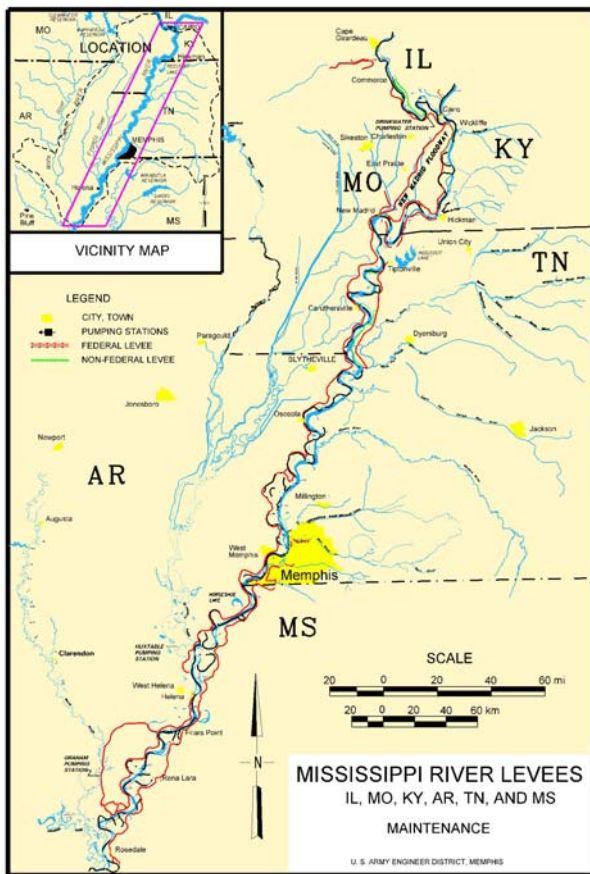
Section 5068 of the House version of WRDA includes language that would allow the Secretary to participate in the reconstruction of the Cairo Mainline Levee if the reconstruction is not required as a result of improper operation and maintenance of the project by the non-Federal interest. The language does not release the sponsor from cost-sharing requirements.

**BACKGROUND:** Work to raise the levee at Cairo, Illinois, was completed in the fall of 2002. The Cairo levee was raised between approximate levee miles 10 to 20 along the left descending bank of the Mississippi River. The grade increase was required to provide the authorized level of protection, the Project Design Flood (PDF) flowline plus freeboard. The original design indicated that a levee raise of 1 to 1.5 feet along most of the levee reach would be needed. In reality, the levee had to be raised 3 to 4 feet in the middle and upper reaches of the levee to achieve the authorized grade. Though the levee road is only intended for use in operating and maintaining the levee, local farmers use the levee road to transport their crops to market. The Cairo levee could also be used as an escape route for Cairo residents during flood emergencies. The completed levee grade raise has resulted in a levee crown width that is narrower than authorized, and unsafe for two-way traffic. The local sponsor is the Cairo Drainage District. Mr. Don Johnson, the drainage district President, has expressed concern about maintaining the levee. The levee slopes are steep, not well-compacted and are difficult to mow. Mr. Johnson has requested the Corps' assistance in finding a solution to these problems.

In 1996, the PDF flowline was recalculated due to the influence of the new and/or improved private levees along the Upper Mississippi River. When the PDF flowline was raised, the grade of the levee (Cairo Levee) on the left descending bank of the Upper Mississippi River was found to be deficient. Using gravel to raise the authorized levee grade was determined to be the only viable option. The local sponsor is not financially capable of providing borrow material for a conventional levee raise.

Results of the PDF flowline analysis may be found in the Hydraulic Engineering Analysis of the Upper St. Francis Levee Commerce to Birds-Point Reach, dated June 1996.





## Mounds Creek Culvert



## Ohio Levee Scour Repair



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As of 20 February 2006

**Project Name:** Mississippi River Levees, AR, IL, KY, MS, MO & TN; MR&T Maintenance

**Authority:** Flood Control Act of 15 May 1928

**Location and Description:** The Mississippi River Levee (MRL) system on the west bank extends from Allenville, Missouri, on the Little River Diversion Channel generally southward to the vicinity of Venice, Louisiana. On the east bank the MRL system begins at Hickman, Kentucky, and ends opposite Venice, Louisiana, except where interrupted by hills and tributary streams. The project provides for the maintenance of authorized facilities for the protection against headwater floods of the Mississippi River by means of levees, berms, culverts, outlet structures and floodwalls. Major maintenance of the authorized features of the Mississippi River Levees Project is 100% Federally funded. Local interests are responsible for providing minor maintenance and rights-of-way.